

CASE STUDY: AGRICULTURE

Interlace Agroforestry Farm

Lead Agency: Meghan Giroux, Interlace Agroforestry Farm

Funding: NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program and USDA EQUIP Grant

Website: Vermont Edible Landscapes and Interlace Agroforestry Farm and Consultancy

Project Overview:

Meghan Giroux is the owner of Vermont Edible Landscapes and Interlace Agroforestry Farm, Consultancy & Commons. At Interlace Agroforestry Farm, she is implementing resiliency actions across her 60 acre farm in Essex, New York. The farm is primarily for production of forestry products to be sold through her forestry nursery business. The farm incorporates the five agroforestry systems identified by the USDA: alley cropping, multistory cropping, riparian forest buffers, silvopasture establishment, windbreak establishment, and windbreak renovation.

She is utilizing a USDA EQUIP and a Climate Resiliency Farming Grant from the state of New York to create water storage opportunities, manage significant precipitation events, and efficiently conduct water irrigation. To create a farm-wide plan, she worked with Darren Doherty, an Australian land planner, on the concept plan for the farm, and Darren Doherty, Georgi Pavlov and local Engineer Mark Buckley Pond on the pond infrastructure design. Essex Soil and Water Conservation District and the Agency of Agriculture were involved with the water infrastructure project. In addition to the farming practices, she also serves as an educational consultant for those interested in cultivation agroforestry through Interlace Agroforestry Farm & Consultancy. She is currently creating curriculum to support a summer agroforestry field school for interested college students.

How Project Contributes to Rural Resiliency:

Agriculture is an integral part to many rural communities yet farms are increasing stressed by larger scale stresses in the form of climate change and international trade policies. Farms can serve as incubators for landscape-scale actions for both climate change mitigation (especially through agroforestry) and adaptation. By implementing resiliency actions and incorporating an educational consultancy, Ms. Giroux is making her farm and her livelihood more resilient to local and large-scale changes.

Suggestions for towns and/or COGs to assist in this type of project:

Agricultural and Conservation Commissions should include multiple types of farming in their regulator definitions of farming. They should also strive to educate the public on these different types of agriculture and educate farmers about agroforestry practices.

Contact for Questions:

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Interlace Farm Credit: Meghan Giroux